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SIPDIS

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FROM U.S. MISSION IN ROME

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD FOR AMBASSADOR AND USAID
STATE FOR A/S/SA, A/S/PRM, A/S/IO
USAID FOR AA/DCHA, AA/ANE, DCHA/FFP AND USAID/ALMATY
USDA/FAS FOR MCHAMBLISS/RTILLSWORTH
GENEVA FOR RMA AND NKYLOH/USAID
BRUSSELS FOR KFULLER AND KDEBLAW
USUN FOR LSHESTACK
NSC FOR JDWORKEN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [EAGR](#) [AORC](#) [PREF](#) [EAGR](#) [AORC](#) [PREF](#) [EU](#) [WFP](#) [UN](#) [EU](#) [EAID](#) [WFP](#) [UN](#) [AFGHANISTAN](#)
SUBJECT: AFGHAN TRANSIT TRADE AGREEMENT AND USE OF PORT BIN
QASIM, PAKISTAN

SUMMARY

[11.](#) WFP'S INTERNATIONAL CARGO SURVEYOR IN KARACHI SUGGESTS THAT THE 1965 AFGHAN TRANSIT TRADE AGREEMENT BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE PORT BIN QASIM. THIS MODERN PAKISTANI PORT FACILITY, BUILT IN THE MID-1970S, COULD HELP FACILITATE MOVEMENT OF MATERIAL FOR THE AFGHAN RECONSTRUCTION EFFORT. END SUMMARY.

BACKGROUND

[12.](#) USMISSION HUMANITARIAN ATTACHE TIM LAVELLE SPOKE WITH JAY UNCLASSIFIED

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KOTECHA (FINANCE DIRECTOR) OF THE INTERNATIONAL FORWARDING AGENCY (PVT) LTD (IFA), BASED IN KARACHI, WHO WAS ATTENDING THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM'S SECOND ANNUAL SHIPPING CONFERENCE HELD IN ROME APRIL 18-19. IFA HAS BEEN WFP'S GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT (SURVEYOR) IN KARACHI FOR THE PAST 32 YEARS.

[13.](#) KOTECHA BRIEFED ON ASPECTS OF THE AFGHAN TRANSIT TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED ON MARCH 2, 1965 BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF PAKISTAN AND THE KINGDOM OF AFGHANISTAN FOR REGULATION OF TRAFFIC IN TRANSIT FROM PAKISTAN TO AFGHANISTAN. IN THIS AGREEMENT, ONLY KARACHI PORT WAS MENTIONED AS A PAKISTANI PORT POINT OF ENTRY, WITH NO FLEXIBILITY FOR INCLUSION AT A FUTURE DATE OF ADDITIONAL PORTS DEVELOPED ALONG THE PAKISTANI COAST LINE.

[14.](#) IN THE EXTANT AGREEMENT, THERE ARE TWO PREREQUISITES FOR ALLOWING A PORT TO HANDLE AFGHAN TRANSIT TRADE CARGO, WHICH ARE:

A) SEPARATE SHED(S) TO STORE THE CARGO, AND
B) A RAILWAY LINK FROM THE PORT TO THE DESIGNATED PAKISTANI BORDER EXIT POINTS OF PESHAWAR AND CHAMAN.

PORT BIN QASIM

[15.](#) AS PER KOTECHA, PORT BIN QASIM CAME INTO OPERATION IN MID 1970'S FOR BULK CARGO, AND NOW HAS A MODERN TERMINAL FOR CONTAINERIZED VESSELS - CAPABLE OF HANDLING MOTHER VESSELS INSTEAD OF FEEDER VESSELS. WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE PORT, UNCLASSIFIED

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THERE ARE AMPLE AREAS AVAILABLE, WHICH COULD BE ALLOCATED FOR EXCLUSIVE HANDLING OF AFGHAN TRANSIT TRADE CARGO. IN KOTECHA'S VIEW, FOR THE REBUILDING OF AFGHANISTAN IT IS ADVISABLE TO HAVE A SECOND PORT (SUCH AS BIN QASIM) TO HANDLE AFGHAN TRANSIT TRADE. BIN QASIM MEETS THE TWO PREREQUISITES MENTIONED ABOVE. NOTE: WFP HAS EXTENSIVELY USED THIS PORT FOR BULK GRAIN SHIPMENTS FOR APPROXIMATELY 13 YEARS. END NOTE.

[16.](#) KOTECHA OPINED FURTHER THAT THE FACILITIES PRESENTLY AVAILABLE AT KARACHI PORT WOULD BE HEAVILY STRETCHED TO ALONE HANDLE THE ANTICIPATED INFLUX OF SHIP CARGO FOR AFGHANISTAN.

COMMENT

[17.](#) IF THE AFGHAN TRANSIT TRADE AGREEMENT CONTINUES, USMISSION FEELS THAT THE PORT BIN QASIM OPTION MIGHT BE

PROFITABLY EXPLORED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. BOTH IFA AND WFP HAVE OFFERED TO ACCOMPANY ANY ASSESSMENT TEAM

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INFO LOG-00 NP-00 AID-00 AMAD-00 CIAE-00 WHA-00 SRPP-00
EAP-00 EB-00 UTED-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00 NEA-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OES-01 OIC-02 TEST-00 SA-00 PRM-00
SAS-00 /003W

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P 260712Z APR 02
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3429
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY TASHKENT
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE
AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
AMEMBASSY ALMATY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USDA FAS WASHDC 2111
USEU BRUSSELS 2640
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WISHING TO EVALUATE PORT BIN QASIM FACILITIES. THE BEST
POINT OF CONTACT FOR FOLLOW UP IS WFP/PAKISTAN.

18. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. HEILEMAN

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